



Preparing for your Formal Rating

Your Technical Consultant will complete the YoungStar Evaluation Criteria, which means the remaining part of your rating is the Environment Rating Scale (ERS) Observation(s). This will be completed by an ERS Observer with SFTA. The ERS Observer will be using Environment Rating Scales to complete an observation(s) of your program.

There are four different environment rating scales including:

- ✚ Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (ECERS-R) for classrooms with the majority of children ages 2.5-5 years
- ✚ Infant Toddler Environment Rating Scale (ITERS-R) for classrooms with the majority of children ages 0- 2.5 years
- ✚ Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale (FCCERS-R) for family child care programs
- ✚ School-Age Care Environment Rating Scale (SACERS) for classrooms with the majority of children ages 5- 12 years.

Formal raters also use a variety of resources to aid in their scoring like:

- The **Environment Rating Scale** books can be purchased through a variety of online venues, and may be available for loan from: <http://ccic.wi.gov/>
- **Wisconsin Interpretations:** these are WI specific rules that change the way the environment rating scales are used in WI programs. Familiarize yourself with them at: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/providers/ers>
- **Notes for Clarification:** these are updates from the authors of the environment rating scales that may change the way the scales are scored. Familiarize yourself with the latest updates at: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/providers/ers>
- The “**All About the ECERS-R**” and “**All About the ITERS-R**” books: these books go in depth about each item in the environment rating scale. They have great examples, pictures, and clarifications. They are available to purchase through Kaplan Early Learning and may be available for loan from CCIC: <http://ccic.wi.gov/>
- The “**Caring for Our Children**” book: this book, and the information in it, provided much of the foundation for why certain items were included in the environment rating scales. You can download a free copy of the book at: <http://cfoc.nrckids.org/>
- The **Public Playground Safety Handbook:** This book is used to provide additional information on assessing outdoor play spaces. You can download a free copy of the book at: <https://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/122149/325.pdf>

This web link will also be helpful in your preparation for the ERS observation(s):
<http://supportingfamiliesaltogether.org/formal-rating-in-youngstar/>